Saskmilk Newsletter
February 2015

BSE on Canadian Farm

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As you are aware, the first Canadian case of BSE in four years was found on an Alberta farm late last week in a beef cow.

CFIA officials are working to identify the age of the animal, its history and how it became infected. No part of the carcass entered the human or animal food chain. In an email statement, Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said the CFIA is following internationally recognized protocols and working with provincial and industry partners.

Because Canada has a trade status of 'Controlled Risk' in regards to BSE (which allows for up to a dozen BSE cases per year without change in status), this find will not affect Canada's official trade status. From a food safety perspective, there is no human health risk.

Key messages/information:

- Scientific studies have shown that milk and other dairy products do not transmit BSE
- Canada's beef supply is safe: we have in place a suite of risk mitigation measures to protect public and animal health, including the removal of specified-risk materials (SRM) from the human food chain, the ruminant to ruminant feed ban, the national surveillance program and restriction on imports of animals from countries with occurrences of BSE
- The surveillance program works as it tests the suspect animals and uncovers BSE before an affected animal can go in the food chain. The two most recent Canadian cows that tested positive for BSE did not go into the human food chain nor into the animal feed chain
- Dairy farmers are committed to excellence and quality in the dairy sector; the 1997 feed ban restricts the use of ruminant by-products in feed for ruminants
- Specified risk material (SRM) from all animals slaughtered for human food is removed in Canada. SRM are tissues that, in infected animals, contain the BSE agent. This measure is internationally recognized as the most effective public health measure against BSE

CQM REGISTRATION

REMINDER:

All producers in the provinces must be registered on the CQM program by the end of 2015.

Producers new to the program must have completed three months of records before they can apply for registration.

The **Records** the CQM program requires producers to keep are:

- Veterinary prescriptions for drugs used extra- label
- List of medicines and chemicals used on livestock
- Livestock treatment record
- Broken needle record
- Bulk tank temperature log
- Milking equipment sanitation record
- Cleaning and sanitizing chart
- Annual wash system evaluation
- Water record

Producers are also required to have:

Standard Operating Procedures:

- Pre-milking
- Milking
- Milking cattle with abnormal or treated milk
- Post milking cleaning
- Treating cattle
- Shipping cattle
- Feeding medicated feed

Corrective Action Plans

- Corrective action plans outline the steps to take to correct a problem. Corrective Action plans should contain detailed instructions and contact numbers and the CQM program requires producers to write a Corrective Action plan for specific scenarios.

Deviations and Corrective Actions

- If a problem or deviation occurs the CQM program requires that corrective actions be carried out to correct the problem and that each deviation and chosen corrective action be documented.

Information on all of this is in the CQM workbook and reference manual. If you have questions or want to apply for CQM registration please contact Deb Haupstein
deb.haupstein@saskmilk.ca **306-721-9486**

*****CQM workshops will be held in March 2015 if there is a demand. If you require one, please contact Deb Haupstein 306-721-9486*****

Loss of Carcass Collection and Disposal Services

Saskatoon Processing Co. (a Division of West Coast Reduction Ltd.) recently advised the Ministry of Agriculture that it would be discontinuing dead stock pickup and disposal service to some of its customers. If you have been using rendering to manage livestock mortalities and have been advised this service will no longer be provided to your operation, then you will need a new plan for disposal of your livestock mortalities.

Death of animals is a normal occurrence, and even the best livestock operations have regularly occurring mortalities. It is important that dead stock be disposed of in an environmentally sound fashion so that water resources are protected. Two alternatives to consider are composting and burial.

Composting requires a bulking agent such as chopped straw along with a loader to form and turn the compost pile. The compost area should be sited to minimize visibility and managed to ensure proper composting and to prevent scavenging. Runoff from the compost pile must not impact surface water.

Burial is possible if sub-surface soil provides natural protection of groundwater resources. If there are sandy soils, large diameter wells or shallow aquifers in your area, burial is not likely to be a suitable option.

Allowing wildlife to scavenge carcasses is not an approved disposal method. Scavenging animals such as ravens and coyotes should not be encouraged. They may cause nuisance issues for neighbours, increase livestock predation and provide a vector for the introduction and spread of disease.

Livestock producers are encouraged to contact the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture for technical assistance regarding the disposal of dead stock. Producers that have an Approval under *The Agricultural Operations Act* are required to inform the Ministry of changes to their mortality management plans.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's publications, "Managing Livestock Mortalities" and "Composting Animal Mortalities, A Producer's Guide" are good references to assist in choosing an appropriate carcass disposal method. These are available on the Ministry website (http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca) or by contacting one of our Regional Engineers.

Northwest (Saskatoon)
David Cook
306-933-5322
Bryce Sundbo
306-933-5095

Southern (Moose Jaw)
Chelsey Eberts
306-694-3672
Chris Pinno
306-694-3673

Northeast (Yorkton)
Brian Campbell
306-786-1505
Sheldon Diduck
306-786-1429

Who is Saskatchewan's Outstanding Young Farmer for 2015?

Here's your chance to recognize someone with the title of the 2015 Saskatchewan Outstanding Young Farmer. This award will be presented at Canada's Farm Progress Show on June 19, 2015 in Regina, SK.

We are seeking people who contribute to the community, who seek new opportunities, and who generally are assets to Saskatchewan's agri-food industry.

Anyone can nominate a young farmer/farm couple/farm partnership for the award. The eligibility requirements are simply:

- Must not have reached the age of 40 by January 1, 2015
- Must operate a farm
- Must derive a minimum of 2/3 of their income from farming

The process is simple.

1. Nominations are submitted by March 1, 2015
2. Nominees are contacted and complete an application form. Application forms are due by April 15, 2015.
3. A preliminary judging committee may be needed depending on the number of applications. Their decision is based upon items such as the nominees progress in their agricultural career; adoption of soil, water, and energy conservation practices; financial and management practices and contribution to the well-being of the community, province, and nation.
4. The top candidates then participate in an interview and presentation process at the regional event to be held in Regina on June 18th and 19th. The winner will be announced at a luncheon on June 19th.
5. The provincial winner will then compete in the National competition which is designed to recognize young farmers that exemplify excellence in their profession. The National competition for 2015 will be held in Edmonton, AB in November.

If you would like more information about OYF, or if you know an outstanding young farmer that you would like to nominate, please visit the website www.saskoyf.ca

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact Elaine Pruim at elainepruim@live.com or (306) 239-4263

Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 10 - 13, 2015

Sheraton Red Deer, Red Deer AB

Taking Care of Dairy Business

Tuesday, March 10th

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Pre-Conference Tour
This tour will visit three local dairy farms with the focus on progressive, innovative dairy managers.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Pre-Conference Symposium for Nutritionists: Managing feed variability **Facilitator:** Bill Weiss, The Ohio State University (Max 50)

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshop for Producers: Is synchronization here to stay or will new technologies soon rule the day? **Facilitators**: Stephen Butler, Teagasc, Ireland & Marcos Colazo, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Canada (Max 30)

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Registration**
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Opening Reception**

Wednesday, March 11th

Morning Plenary Session

Session I Hot Topics in the Industry

8:30 ***Welcome* – Pauline Van Biert, ARD**, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee
***Introductory Remarks and Conference Overview* – Lorraine Doepel, University of Calgary**, Chair, WCDS Program Committee

8:50 *Dairy cow welfare – motivation for improvement* - **Jennifer Walker, Deans Foods**

9:50 *Nutrition Break*

10:20 *Looking out instead of looking in – the opportunities from open markets* - **Mike Petersen, Special Agricultural Trade Envoy for NZ**

11:05 *Why supply management should remain in Canada.* - **Bruce Muirhead, University of Waterloo**

11:50 ***Panel (all speakers)***

12:10 **Lunch**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session II Replacement Stock

1:40 *Advancements in automated feeding for calves: Where we are today and where we'll be tomorrow.* **Michael Steele, University of Alberta**

2:20 *The effects of housing and nutrition on immunity of the dairy calf* - **Michael Ballou, Texas Tech University**

3:00 *Nutrition Break*

3:30 *The effects of poor calf health on the future of the dairy replacement heifer* - **Sheila McGuirk, University of Wisconsin - Madison**

4:10 *Replacement heifers aren't free* - **Roger Mills, Manitoba Dairy Farm Management Group**

4:50 **Panel (all speakers)**

Session III Reproduction

1:40 *Selecting for fertility traits in dairy cows: waste of effort or light at the end of the tunnel?* - **Stephen Butler, Teagasc, Ireland**

2:20 *The relationship of immunity and reproduction in dairy cows* - **David Hurley, University of Georgia**

3:00 *Nutrition Break*

3:30 *Optimizing fertility: the importance of transition cow health* - **Ricardo Chebel, University of Minnesota**

4:10 *Management strategies to maximize reproductive performance of dairy herds* - **Julio Giordano, Cornell University**

4:50 **Panel (all speakers)**

Evening Banquet: Entertainment **TBA**

Thursday, March 12th

Morning Plenary Session

Session IV Feeding and Forages

8:30 *Getting the rumen working at its optimum* - **Jeff Firkins, The Ohio State University**

9:10 *Optimizing and evaluating dry matter intake of high producing cow* - **Bill Weiss, The Ohio State University**

9:50 *Nutrition Break*

10:20 *Making or breaking rations with forage digestibility* - **Mary-Beth Hall, USDA**

11:00 *New technologies in alfalfa* – **Peter Reisen, Forage Genetics International**

11:40 **Panel (all speakers)**

12:00 **Lunch**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session V Health and Welfare

1:30 *Sub-acute ruminal acidosis: effects on the cow and her gut* - **Tanya Gressley, University of Delaware**

2:10 *Parasites eat your profits* - **Donald Bliss, MidAmerica Agricultural Research Inc.**

2:50 *Nutrition break*

3:20 *Dealing with animal welfare issues on dairy farms – the BC experience* - **Jim Byrne, Chairman of BC Milk Marketing Board**

4:00 *Are we doing our best at transporting our cull dairy cows to market?* - **Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein, AAFC Lethbridge**

4:40 **Panel (all speakers)**

Session VI Housing and Environment

1:30 *Crowding your cows costs you cash* - **Albert de Vries, University of Florida**

2:10 *Making and evaluating energy use changes in the dairy barn* - **Jim Salfer, University of Minnesota**

2:50 *Nutrition Break*

3:20 *Management of Cows Using Robotic Milkers: efficient use of robotic milkers, efficient barn layout, cow movement, different management vs. in traditional parlor* - **Producer panel**

4:40 **Panel (all speakers)**

5:00 **Reception (to be held after Sessions)**

6:30 **Student Research Presentations**

Friday, March 13th

Morning Plenary Session

Session VII Managing the Transition Cow

8:30 *Management practices for successful calving* -. **Gustavo M. Schuenemann, The Ohio State University**

9:10 *Managing the transition cow to keep her and he liver healthy* - **Todd Duffield, University of Guelph**

9:50 *Nutrition Break*

10:20 *Stocking density and feeding behavior around transition* - **Pete Krawczel, University of Tennessee**

11:00 *Culling/longevity versus genetic progress from heifers* - **Albert Devries, University of Florida**

11:40 **Panel (all speakers)**

12:00 **Closing**

QUOTA EXCHANGE

The market-clearing price established for the February 2015 Quota Exchange was **$29,000.00**

The next Quota Exchange will be held on **March 15, 2015**. All offers to sell and bids to purchase quota through the Quota Exchange must be received at the SaskMilk office by midnight, **March 6, 2015**. SaskMilk recommends that offers and bids be submitted well in advance of the deadline date to ensure adequate time for corrections, if necessary.

When making bids on the Quota Exchange, the price on offers to sell quota is the minimum price that the producer is prepared to accept for that quota. Only if the market-clearing price is equal to or greater than the producer's minimum price will that producer qualify for participation in the Exchange. Conversely, the price on offers to purchase quota is the maximum price that the producer is prepared to pay for that quota. Only if the market-clearing price is equal to or less than the producer's maximum price will that producer qualify for participation in the Exchange. The clearing price is set at the price where the smallest difference exists between the accumulated volume offered for sale and the accumulated volume bid to purchase.

The results of the Quota Exchange are outlined in the following Table.

FEBRUARY 2015 QUOTA EXCHANGE RESULTS SUMMARY

Market Clearing Price per kilogram of butterfat	**$ 29,000.00**
Daily Kilograms offered to Purchase	**66.00**
Kilograms offered to Sell	**21.00**
Kilograms sold	**6.00**
Number of Producers	
- offered to purchase	**7**
- purchased quota	**3**
- offered to sell	**3**
- sold quota	**1**

FEBRUARY 2015 QUOTA EXCHANGE CLEARING PRICE RESULTS

Price ($/daily kg b.f.)	No. of Sellers	Cumulative Sellers	Daily Kgs b.f. offered for sale	Cumulative sales	Cumulative Sales less Cumulative purchases	Cumulative purchases	Daily Kgs b.f. offered to purchase	Cumulative bidders	No. of buyers
$27,500.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	-66.00	66.00	15.00	7	1
$28,000.00	1	1	6.00	6.00	-45.00	51.00	0.00	6	0
$28,300.00	0	1	0.00	6.00	-45.00	51.00	10.00	6	1
$28,500.00	0	1	0.00	6.00	-35.00	41.00	20.00	5	1
$28,501.00	0	1	0.00	6.00	-15.00	21.00	10.00	4	1
$29,000.00	**0**	**1**	**0.00**	**6.00**	**-5.00**	**11.00**	**10.00**	**3**	**2**
$29,500.00	1	2	5.00	11.00	10.00	1.00	0.00	1	0
$30,000.00	0	2	0.00	11.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1	1
$32,000.00	1	3	10.00	21.00	21.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

*** Please contact Bev Solie at 306-949-6999 for inquiries dealing with quota management sheets, the Quota Exchange, for transfer credits, or with any other quota transactions.**

TRANSFER CREDIT SUMMARY REPORT

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS TRANSFER IN	# OF PRODUCERS TRANSFER OUT	TOTAL KGS BUTTERFAT
January, 2014	20	17	19,783
February	23	16	19,294
March	26	21	21,973
April	16	12	11,722
May	15	12	12,618
June	10	8	7,204
July	15	12	13,322
August	15	12	11,915
September	19	18	23,202
October	10	10	10,988
November	12	10	13,140
December	19	12	20,889
January, 2015	23	19	19,605

PRIVATE TRANSFERS PROCESSED

MONTH	DAILY KILOGRAMS
Feb	0.00
Mar	132.84
Apr	419.23
May	145.23
June	18.50
July	20.00
Aug	615.73
Sept	336.41
Oct	12.71
Nov	24.35
Dec	11.00
Jan-2015	0.00

OVER QUOTA (OVER 5 DAYS) REPORT BY MONTH

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS	KGS BUTTERFAT
January, 2014	21	5,133
February	17	2,940
March	19	2,338
April	20	4,163
May	13	1,411
June	15	1,791
July	11	1,266
August	3	354
September	2	102
October	3	32
November	5	403
December	6	767
January, 2015	7	2,739

SUMMARY REPORT OF CREDITS January, 2015 – 163 PRODUCERS

DAYS	# OF PRODUCERS	POSITIVE CREDITS ACCUMULATED (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
+ 5	7	4,521
0 to + 5	24	6,548
TOTAL	31	11,069
DAYS	**# OF PRODUCERS**	**NEGATIVE CREDITS ACCUMULATED (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)**
-15	18	-26,582
-10 to -15	32	-94,712
-5 to -10	44	-48,372
0 to -5	38	-16,207
TOTAL	132	-185,873

LOST OPPORTUNITY REPORT

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS	LOST OPPORTUNITY (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
January, 2014	8	1,723
February	8	542
March	3	240
April	7	1,104
May	10	1,792
June	5	2,823
July	9	3,717
August	17	7,315
September	16	3,722
October	16	8,971
November	13	3,774
December	19	6,444
January, 2015	18	7,440

WEIGHTED AVERAGE COMPONENT TESTS & PRICES January, 2015

Components	Average Test	Price per kilogram Class 1 to 5
Butterfat	4.0882	11.183644
Protein	3.3651	8.183584
Other Solids	5.6989	1.208050

Based on the average component tests for the province, the average price received was **$80.1437** per hectolitre. **The average butterfat price received per kilogram was $19.54**

SASKATCHEWAN MILK POOL RESULTS January 2015

Milk Sale Revenue	$ 14,996,560.24
Western Milk Pool	$ 1,221,990.50
Plant of Last Resort Service	$ (55,227.02)
Total Pool Value	**$ 16,163,323.72**

In January, Saskatchewan had a monthly CDC allocation of **806,291 kilograms** of butterfat. In the month of January, Saskatchewan production was **19,978** of butterfat **over** and cumulatively **under** by **-120,978 kilograms** of butterfat. On a percentage basis, Saskatchewan is **-1.28%** within our CDC allocation flexibility limits based on the Continuous Quota model. The -1.50% lower flexibility limit is in effect.

	(1) Monthly Total Production Kgs bf	(2) Total Monthly CDC Quota Allocation Kgs bf	(3) Monthly Over or (Under) Production Kgs bf col. 1 – 2 = 3	(4) Lower Flexibility Limit **(1.5%)** Kgs bf col. 9 * -1.5%	(5) Upper Flexibility Limit **1.0%** Kgs bf col. 9 *1.0%	(6) Cumulative Over or (Under) Production with limits Kgs bf	(7) Cumulative Over or (Under) Production with limits in - % col. 6 / 9	(8) Over Quota or (Lost Production Opportunity) Kgs bf	(9) Rolling 12 Month Total Quota Kgs bf
Jan-14	789,851	769,397	20,454	(135,547)	45,182	**(49,676)**	**-0.55%**	0	9,036,438
Feb-14	705,370	709,836	(4,466)	(135,940)	45,313	**(66,474)**	**-0.73%**	0	9,062,696
Mar-14	778,842	771,216	7,626	(135,992)	45,331	**(58,458)**	**-0.64%**	0	9,066,120
Apr-14	759,580	765,873	(6,293)	(136,382)	45,461	**(64,773)**	**-0.71%**	0	9,092,104
May-14	794,737	781,223	13,514	(136,885)	45,628	**(57,303)**	**-0.63%**	0	9,125,672
Jun-14	761,220	759,569	1,651	(137,511)	45,837	**(58,840)**	**-0.64%**	0	9,167,373
Jul-14	770,028	768,975	1,053	(138,077)	46,026	**(57,522)**	**-0.62%**	0	9,205,114
Aug-14	755,864	775,617	(19,753)	(138,628)	46,209	**(86,128)**	**-0.93%**	0	9,241,841
Sept-14	757,014	785,984	(28,970)	(139,355)	46,452	**(115,663)**	**-1.24%**	0	9,290,311
Oct-14	784,475	837,039	(52,564)	(139,977)	46,659	**(139,977)**	**-1.50%**	(29,529)	9,331,833
Nov-14	777,547	806,726	(29,179)	(140,477)	46,826	**(140,477)**	**-1.50%**	(28,634)	9,365,141
Dec-14	811,818	846,968	(35,150)	(140,987)	46,996	**(140,987)**	**-1.50%**	(34,624)	9,399,124
Jan-15	826,269	806,291	19,978	(141,417)	47,139	**(120,978)**	**-1.28%**	0	9,427,790

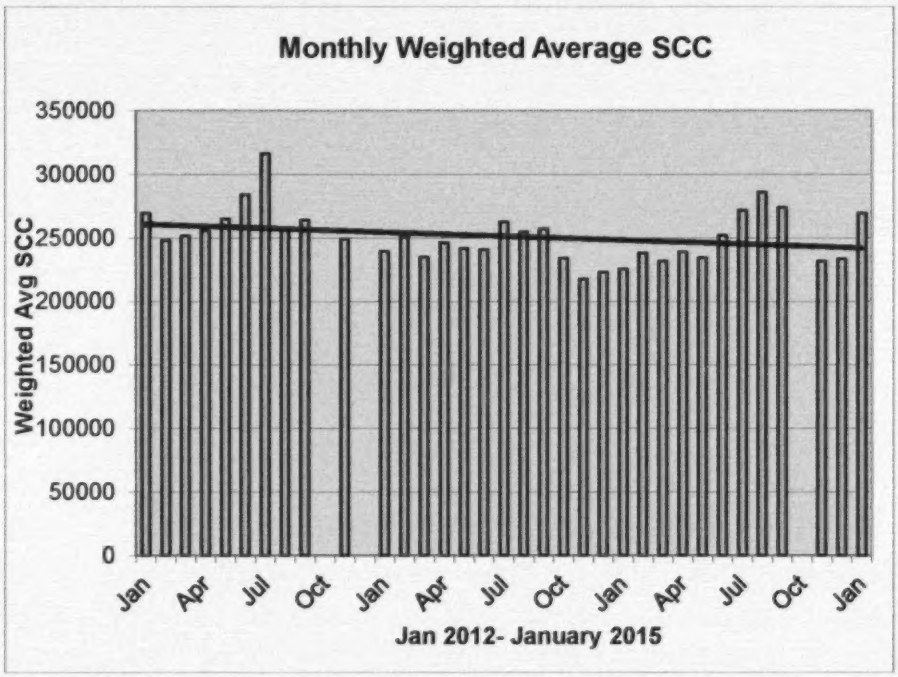
(1) Monthly Production in Saskatchewan
(2) Total Monthly Quota = Class 1 sales + Monthly MSQ + Carry Forward
(3) Difference between the monthly production (1) and the total monthly quota (2)
(4) The Lower Flexibility Limit is -1.5% of Rolling 12 Month Total Quota (9)
(5) The Upper Flexibility Limit is 1.0% of Rolling 12 Month Total Quota (9)
(6) Previous Month Cumulative Over or (Under) Production + Current Monthly Over or (Under) Production (capped at lower or upper limit if applicable)
(7) Equal to Column (6) expressed as a percentage basis within the flexibility limits
(8) Over Quota or (Lost production opportunity) outside of flexibility limits
(9) Total Monthly CDC Quota Allocation for the previous 12 months

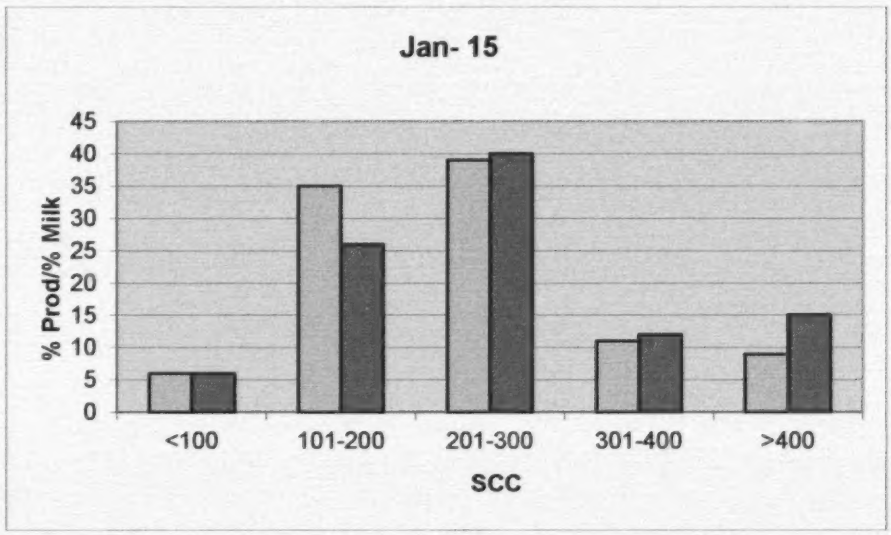
SCC LIMIT NOW 400,000

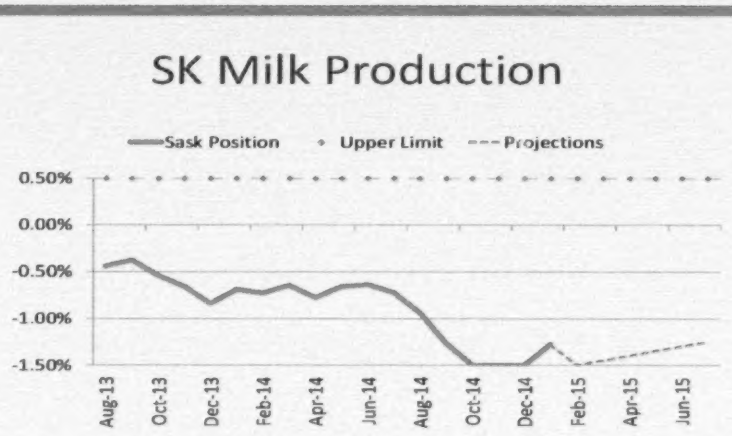
Effective January 1, 2013, the SCC limit has changed to 400,000. Penalties and violations will be applied based on the new limit.

The following graphs provide producers with an overview of the Provincial Somatic Cell Count weighted average on a monthly basis as well as a breakdown of the % of producers in each SCC level for the month of January 2015.

If you have any questions or comments you can contact: Deb Haupstein at 306-721-9486.







INHIBITOR TEST STATIONS

SaskMilk has established a number of inhibitor test stations around the province. Producers needing to check their bulk tanks for inhibitors can take a sample to the test station closest to their location.

Charm test strips are available to test for:
Beta-Lactams- the Charm 3 SL3 Beta Lactam test strip tests for amoxicillin, ampicillin, ceftiofur, cephapirin, cloxacillin, and penicillin G

Tetracyclines- the Charm Tetracycline test strip tests for chlortetracycline, oxytetracycline and tetracycline.

Sulfas- the Charm Sulfa test strip tests for sulfacetamide, sulfachlorpyridazine, sulfadiazine, sulfadimethoxine, sulfadoxine, sulfaethoxypyridazine, sulfamerazine, sulfamethazine, sulfamethizole, sulfamethoxazole, sulfamethoxypyridazine, sulfapyridine, sulfaquinoxaline, sulfathiazole,and sulfisoxazole.

Test stations are located at the following locations:

1. Swift Current, SK - Agrifoods truck bay - 675 Cheadle Street West
   Office 306-773-1097 or Rodger Ruf 306-741-3261
2. Harris, SK - Cairnside Farm – Wes Cairns 306-665-4807
3. Star City, SK - Star City Colony - Reuben Tschetter 306-921-9381
4. Grenfell, SK - Jim Ross 306-697-2232
5. Yorkton, SK - Ford Dairy Farms Inc. - Bud and Margaret Ford 306-782-7240
6. Saskatoon, SK – Agrifoods Truck Bay - east of the Saputo plant receiving bay
   lead hand - Jim or Clint 306-664-0202 after hours: 306-668-8135

Charm tests strips and Charm testers are now available for purchase through SaskMilk. Agrifoods is now carrying SNAP test kits for tetracylcines as well as beta lactams.

For further information you can contact: Deb Haupstein 306-721-9486

If You Can't Ship It - Test It!

BSE surveillance is still important and every animal tested makes a difference.

Support your cattle industry by having your 4-D (dead, diseased, dying or downer) cattle tested for BSE.

For more information, call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-877-727-5273.

Remember as days get colder animals are attracted to the warmth of cars so check wheel arches or other hiding places.

Code of Practice

2.1 Body Condition Scoring

Body condition scoring (BCS) is a tool for determining if an animal is too thin, too fat or in ideal condition. Ideal BCS is a range and will vary depending upon stage of lactation (25). Appendix E - Body Condition Scoring Chart, provides information to assess BCS. Evaluators can assign quarter or half scores for animals that fall between two BCS units. For the purposes of this Code, all Body Condition Scores refer to the scale shown in Appendix E.

Cows should be at an ideal BCS at dry off and should be fed to maintain this condition until calving. Post calving (calving to 120 days) cows can be expected to lose 0.5 to 1 unit of BCS. Cows should not lose more than 1 BCS at any time. BCS should remain constant or begin to increase during mid-lactation. During late lactation cows should gain back the BCS lost during the post-calving period (22).

Cows that are too fat at calving (BCS>4) are more prone to reproductive and metabolic diseases (e.g., difficult calving, retained placenta, cystic ovaries, uterine infections, ketosis, displaced abomasum, milk fever). Cows that are too thin at calving (BCS<3.25) may not have sufficient body reserves to support high levels of milk production. Cows that lose more than 1 BCS experience reduced fertility, particularly if the loss is too rapid (22).

REQUIREMENTS

Producers must take corrective action for animals at a BCS of 2 or lower.

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES

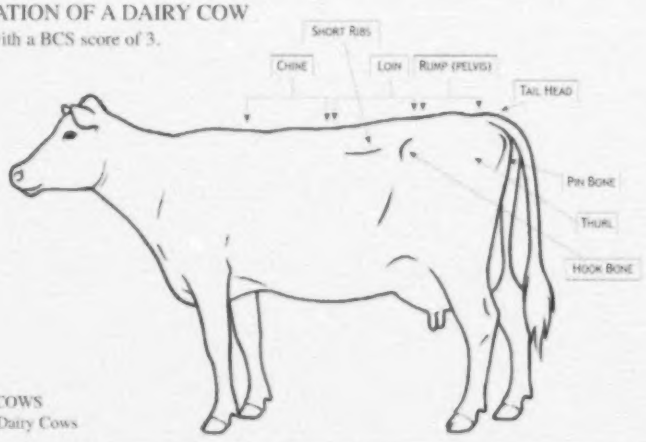
a. use Appendix E - Body Condition Scoring Chart to regularly assess the BCS's of cows
b. aim for the following ideal BCS ranges:
- dry off, 3.25 to 3.75
- calving, 3.25 to 3.75
- early lactation, 2.50 to 3.25
- mid-lactation, 2.75 to 3.25
- late lactation, 3.00 to 3.50
- growing heifers, 2.75 to 3.25
- heifers at calving, 3.25 to 3.75

c. employ corrective measures if more than 15% of the herd is above or below ideal BCS for their stage of lactation (25)
d. keep records - identify animals that are too thin or too fat, ascertain the cause, and fix.

Body Condition Scoring Chart

LABELLED ILLUSTRATION OF A DAIRY COW

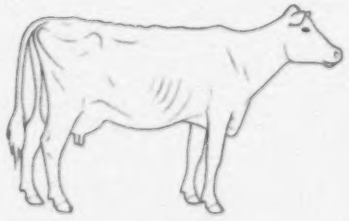
Illustration of a Dairy Cow with a BCS score of 3.



BODY CONDITION SCORES FOR DAIRY COWS

Overview of all the body condition scores for Dairy Cows

BCS 1:



SHORT RIBS:
- Ends sharp to touch
- Loin prominent, shelf-like appearance
- Obvious scalloping over top and ends

BACKBONE:
- Vertebrae prominent in chine, loin and rump area
- Individual bones easily visible

HOOK AND PIN BONES:
- Sharply defined, very angular in appearance
- No discernable fat pad

THURL (area over pelvis):
- Severe "V shaped" depression without fat cover

TAIL HEAD:
- Sunken and hollow on either side of tail head with obvious folds of skin
- Ligaments connecting pin bones to spine are sharply defined
- Vulva prominent.

BCS 2

SHORT RIBS:
- Ends not as prominent as BCS 1, but can be felt
- Edges easily felt, with slight fat cover, and slightly more rounded appearance
- Overhanging shelf effect less apparent

BACKBONE:
- Vertebrae in chine, loin and rump area, less visually distinct
- Easily feel individual vertebrae

HOOK AND PIN BONES:
- Bones still prominent, angular
- No fat pad palpable

THURL (area over pelvis):
- Less severe "V shaped" depression
- Little tissue cover

TAIL HEAD:
- Both sides of the tail head are sunken and hollow
- Sharply defined ligaments connecting pin bones to spine

Body Condition Scoring Chart

BODY CONDITION SCORES FOR DAIRY COWS
Overview of all the body condition scores for Dairy Cows

BCS 3

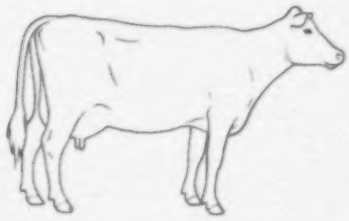
SHORT RIBS:
- Ends can be felt with moderate pressure
- Ribs appear smooth without noticeable scalloping
- Overhanging shelf effect much less apparent

BACKBONE:
- Vertebrae in chine, loin and rump area appear rounded
- Backbone visible, but individual vertebrae not distinct

HOOK AND PIN BONES:
- Visible, but smooth, with rounded appearance
- Fat pad palpable

THURL (area over pelvis):
- Forms "U shaped" depression

TAIL HEAD:
- Both sides of tail head somewhat hollow, but skin folds not distinct
- Ligaments connecting pin bones to spine are rounded in appearance



BCS 4

SHORT RIBS:
- Individual rib ends not visible, only felt with firm pressure
- Overhanging shelf effect slight, barely visible

BACKBONE:
- Vertebrae in chine rounded, smooth
- Loin and rump areas appear flat

HOOK AND PIN BONES:
- Rounded, with obvious fat covering

THURL (area over pelvis):
- Area between hooks and pins almost flat
- Pelvic bone only felt with firm pressure

TAIL HEAD:
- Sides of tail head not hollow, no skin folds
- Some fat deposit palpable

BCS 5

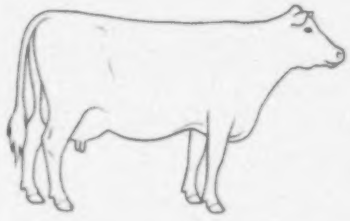
SHORT RIBS:
- Ends can't be seen or felt
- No overhanging shelf effect

BACKBONE:
- Vertebrae in chine, loin and rump not visible
- Difficult to feel individual vertebrae

HOOK AND PIN BONES:
- Very round, buried (almost disappearing) in fat tissue

THURL (area over pelvis):
- Appears flat
- Filled in between the hooks and pins

TAIL HEAD:
- Hollow filled in
- Areas on both sides of tail head buried in fat tissue



Adapted from What's the Score? Body Condition Scoring for Livestock CD-ROM
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Call Paul at #780-842-6508

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